MY NURSERY STORY BOOK





Jo Kenny.

with love and hert wishes

for a mony Christmas.

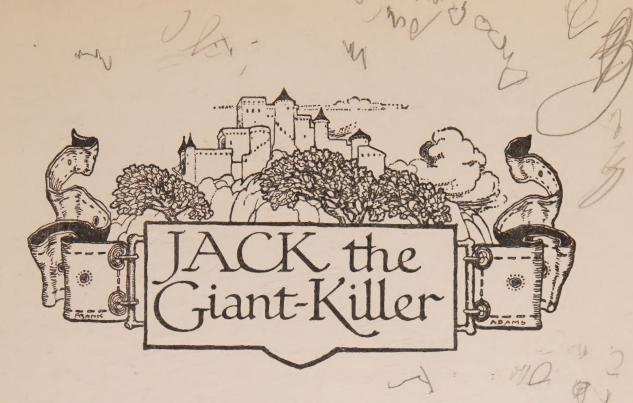
from Uncle Itam.

Dec. 1932.









IN olden times there lived in Cornwall many wicked giants, who were the terror of the country, being so fierce and cruel that no man dared to face them.

But there was a bold boy named Jack, who determined to fight and slay the giants, especially the great giant Cormoran, who lived in a huge castle by the sea. So one night he took a horn, a pickaxe, and a shovel; and, digging a pit outside the giant's castle, he covered it with straw and with the boughs of trees. Then he blew his horn, and the giant, rushing out, fell into the pit and was killed. Jack went down into the pit and cut off the giant's head; and the people called him "Jack the Giant-Killer", and gave him a belt on which was engraved:

"This is the valiant Cornishman Who killed the giant Cormoran".

JACK THE GIANT-KILLER

Now, Cormoran's brother, finding Jack asleep one day in a wood, seized him and threw him into his castle, and called another giant to a feast. But as the giants were passing under Jack's window, he flung out a rope, with a strong noose at each end of it, and, catching them by the head, he strangled them.

And when King Arthur heard of this deed, he made Jack a Knight of the Round Table, and our hero rode through the land with noble knights, killing many giants.

Once he came to a great house, kept by a giant with two heads. This giant was extremely polite, and after supper gave Jack his own bed to sleep in. But Jack, fearing mischief, crept out of the bed; and it was well that he did so, for in the middle of the night the giant brought his club and banged at the bed, hoping that he had put an end to Jack. And, when he saw the youth next morning, he was greatly surprised and disappointed.

"How did you sleep?" he asked.

"Pretty well," said Jack, "except for the rats."

The giant then filled two bowls with porridge, one for himself and one for Jack; but Jack managed to ladle his share into a leather bag inside his waistcoat, and presently said: "See what I can do!" cutting the bag with his sword, so that the porridge fell out upon the floor.

"I can do that too!" roared the giant, and, plunging a knife into himself, he fell down dead.

Now, Jack had an invisible coat and shoes of swiftness, which he had taken from a giant. One day he came to



The giant brought his club and banged at the bed

JACK THE GIANT-KILLER

the castle of a hideous giant with a huge head. A beautiful lady, a knight, and a duke's daughter were prisoners in the castle; but, while the giant was away from home, Jack freed them with one stroke of his sword, and took them back to the knight's castle, where a great feast was given in his honour.

In the middle of the feast, a herald announced that a terrible giant, named Thundel, was approaching.

Now, the castle was surrounded by a moat, across which there ran a drawbridge, so Jack set men to saw through the bridge at one end. Then, putting on the invisible coat and the shoes of swiftness, he went boldly to meet the giant.

At first he led Thundel a dance all round the castle; then, suddenly throwing off the invisible coat, he ran over the bridge with great swiftness, and reached the castle safely. When the giant tried to follow, the bridge fell beneath his great weight, and he was drowned. And the land was not plagued with giants any more.

Jack took the duke's daughter back to her own home, and her father gave her to him in marriage, as a fitting reward for his great courage.

He gave him also a beautiful castle in Cornwall, and there Jack and his bride lived happily ever after.



ONCE in the capital city of China there lived a boy named Aladdin, who was so lazy and careless that he would do nothing but play, to the grief of his mother, a poor widow.

One day, when Aladdin was idling away the time as usual, a stranger came up and began to talk to him. He said that he was the boy's uncle, and meant to do great things for him; and, kissing him many times, asked to be taken to the house where he lived.

Very much surprised, Aladdin led the way to his home, and told his mother that a strange uncle had come to see them.

Now, this stranger was really no relation at all to the boy, but a wicked sorcerer, known as the African Magician, who wished to make use of Aladdin in carrying out a secret

plan he had made. He had learnt by his arts that a wonderful magic lamp was hidden beneath the ground in that part of China; and, knowing that this treasure would make him the most powerful person in the world, he soon found out the exact spot where it lay, and made up his mind to get it.

But though he had learnt where the magic lamp was hidden, he was not allowed to take it himself; and having noticed, as he walked about the streets of the city, that Aladdin was a sharp boy, he had decided to make use of him for this purpose.

He soon made the poor widow believe that he was indeed the boy's uncle; and, saying that he now meant to provide for all his wants, he persuaded her to let him take Aladdin out for the day.

Aladdin was delighted to go; and his pretended uncle, having bought him some gay new clothes, took him to visit the best parts of the city, and gave him many nice treats.

After a while, however, he led the boy away from the city, right out into the country, saying that he wished to show him a certain beautiful garden; and Aladdin, though now very tired, was still ready to follow his new friend. When they came to a certain lonely place the magician stopped, and made a fire. Then, throwing some incense into the blaze, he uttered a few words of magic. Instantly the ground opened, showing a cave, with steps leading down below.

"Go down these steps," said the magician to Aladdin,

"and you will find yourself in a most beautiful garden, at one end of which a lamp is burning. Bring me the lamp, and then we shall both be rich for life. But first of all put this ring on your finger, and it will keep you safe from harm."

He placed a ring on Aladdin's finger, and then the boy ran down the steps, to find himself in the loveliest garden he had ever seen.

On every side were trees laden with fine fruits, which Aladdin fancied were made of brightly coloured glass;



"Put this ring on your finger"

and, thinking them very pretty, he filled his pockets and loose tunic with them, little dreaming that they were really dazzling jewels, of immense value. He soon found the lamp burning at the top of some steps, and, putting out the light, he placed it carefully in his vest, and ran up the steps leading to the mouth of the cave.

"Give me the lamp, boy!" cried the magician impatiently.

"No!" said Aladdin; "not until you help me out of this hole."

The magician was so eager to snatch the magic lamp that these words sent him into a violent rage; and, throwing more incense into the fire, he uttered certain words that caused the ground to close over the cave, and Aladdin was buried alive.

Having thus failed to get the treasure he wanted, and not having power to open the ground a second time, the magician went back to Africa in a great rage; and poor Aladdin was left to his fate, knowing now that his pretended uncle was really a wicked sorcerer.

For a long time he wept and cried out for help; but no help came, and at last he clasped his hands together in despair, prepared to die. As he did so, however, he happened to rub the ring given him by the magician, and instantly there appeared an enormous genie, who said: "What dost thou want? I am ready to obey thee."

"Then get me out of this!" cried Aladdin.

In a moment he found himself on the ground above; and, full of joy, he ran off home and told his mother of all his adventures.

Next day, finding that there was nothing to eat in the house, Aladdin said he would sell the old lamp that he had brought home with him the evening before; but just as his mother began to rub it up, to make it a little cleaner, there suddenly appeared a huge genie, who said: "What wouldst thou have? I am ready to obey thee."



Instantly there appeared an enormous genie

"Bring us something to eat!" said Aladdin.

Instantly the genie brought a fine feast, set out in rich dishes of silver; and then he vanished.

Aladdin and his mother sat down to the feast with great delight; and afterwards, by selling the silver dishes, they were able to live in comfort for a long time.

Aladdin now began to improve very much, leaving off his idle ways, and growing into a sensible young man; and, as he made it his business to talk with merchants and wise men, he learned much from them, and soon found out the real value of the fruit-jewels that he had brought from the underground garden.

It was about this time that he first saw the Emperor of China's only daughter, the beautiful Princess Badroul-badour; and, falling in love with her at once, he made up his mind to marry her. So one day he sent his mother to the royal palace with a dish full of the precious fruit-jewels, telling her to present them to the Emperor as a gift from him, and to ask the Princess's hand in marriage at the same time.

After going to the Court for several days, Aladdin's mother was at last taken before the Emperor; and, laying the jewels at his feet, she asked him to allow his daughter to be married to her son, Aladdin.

The Emperor was delighted with the dazzling gems, and said that if Aladdin would send him forty golden basins full of the same kind of fruit-jewels, carried by forty black slaves led by forty white slaves, and would also



Aladdin's mother laid the jewels at his feet

provide a splendid palace for his daughter to live in, he should certainly marry the Princess.

When Aladdin heard what the Emperor had said, he took the wonderful lamp and rubbed it hard. Instantly the genie appeared and asked his commands. Aladdin told him what he required, and the genie vanished, but soon returned with forty golden basins of jewels, forty black slaves, and forty white slaves.

Aladdin at once sent the slaves with the golden basins to the Emperor; and then he desired the genie to bring him a handsome suit of jewel-trimmed clothes, fit for a king, a splendid horse to ride upon, and forty richly-dressed slaves to attend him. He also ordered gorgeous robes

and slaves to be brought for his mother; and the genie instantly carried out his commands.

Aladdin then dressed himself in his glittering garment, and rode in great state to the palace. There he was received very kindly by the Emperor, who promised that the marriage should take place directly a suitable palace was provided for the Princess to live in. So, when he returned to his home at night, Aladdin once more called up the genie, and ordered him to build a gorgeous palace, with windows, doors, and pillars all covered with precious gems; and to set it up in the open space opposite the royal palace.

Next morning the new palace was ready, its dazzling jewelled windows glittering in the sunlight; and when Aladdin entered he found it completely furnished in splendid style, with lords, ladies, and slaves in attendance, and a great treasure of gold and silver laid in a secret place, known only to himself.

The Emperor was now perfectly satisfied; and that very day Aladdin married the beautiful Princess Badroul-badour. He was very happy indeed, and lived the life of a splendid prince; but trouble was yet in store for him.

The wicked African magician was still alive; and having, by means of his arts, found out all that had happened to Aladdin, he made up his mind to try once more to obtain the magic lamp. So he came back to the capital of China, and soon thought out a cunning plan. Learning that Aladdin was away hunting, he dressed himself up as a poor merchant, and, buying a basketful of

small lamps, went from street to street, crying out: "New lamps for old!"

He soon made his way to Aladdin's palace, and was seen by one of the Princess's ladies, who said to her mistress: "A foolish fellow outside is giving away new lamps in exchange for old ones! Shall I give him that rusty old lamp in Prince Aladdin's room, and get a nice new one for it?"

The Princess, having no idea of the real value of the magic lamp, answered: "Certainly, take it down at once!"

The attendant did so; and no sooner had the cunning



The magician snatched the old lamp from her

magician snatched the old lamp from her than he rubbed it hard, and the genie appeared. "Carry me and Aladdin's palace, with all inside it, into the middle of Africa!" cried the magician; and instantly his command was obeyed.

When Aladdin returned from hunting next day, he was full of dismay to find that his palace and his beautiful Princess had disappeared; and he guessed at once that this was the work of the wicked magician. The Emperor was in such a rage that he declared Aladdin should be killed unless his daughter were soon restored.

Aladdin immediately set off to look for his Princess and palace; but, finding his search in vain, he at last flung himself down in despair on the bank of a river, thinking he might as well drown himself. But, as he lay there, he happened to rub the magic ring on his finger, the wonderful powers of which he had forgotten in his grief; and instantly there appeared the genie that he had seen in the cave.

Aladdin was delighted to see him, and said: "Set me down beneath the windows of the Princess's room in my palace, wherever it may be!"

Directly he had spoken, he found himself in the heart of a lonely plain in Africa, outside his own splendid palace. He soon made his way to the Princess's room; and, full of joy, they rushed into each other's arms.

The magician was, fortunately, in another part of the palace; so Aladdin and the Princess were able to arrange a plan for getting rid of him.



They rushed into each other's arms

Having settled everything, Aladdin hid himself behind the curtains of the room, and the Princess sent one of her ladies to invite the magician to come to a little feast with her.

The magician came in good time, looking quite delighted, for until then the Princess had refused to have anything to do with him, and he wished above all things to win her favour; and then a grand feast was served.

The Princess chatted and laughed, pretending to be very friendly; and presently she offered him a cup of wine, in which a deadly poison had been mixed by Aladdin.

The wicked magician, dazzled by the smiles of the beautiful Princess, drank off the wine, and instantly fell dead.

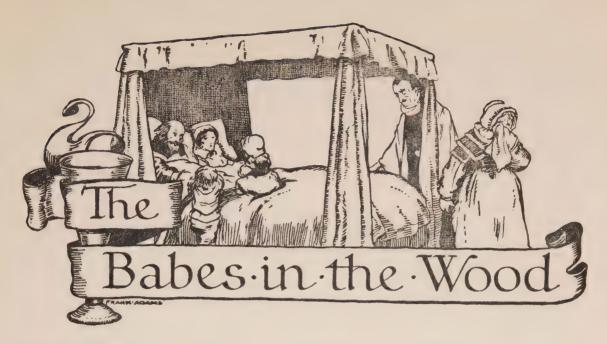
Aladdin now rushed forward, and, searching amongst the magician's clothes, found, to his great joy, the magic lamp.

He rubbed it at once, and, when the genie appeared, commanded him to set the palace down again in its proper place in the capital of China.

This was instantly done; and, when the Emperor looked out of his window next morning, he was full of surprise and joy to see Aladdin's dazzling palace standing in its place once more.

He quickly went to embrace his beloved daughter; and rejoicings for her safe return were kept up all over the country for a long time.

And now that the wicked magician was dead, Aladdin was safe from harm, and sole master of the wonderful lamp; and he and his beautiful Princess lived happily together to the end of their lives.



THERE once lived in Norfolk a gentleman who was very rich indeed, and who was also very good and kind. He had a wife whom he loved dearly; and they had two little children, a boy and a girl.

You can imagine how happy they were. But, alas! one day the good gentleman and his wife fell ill; and no one could make them better again. When they knew that they were about to die, they thought, not of themselves, but of their two little children.

"What is to become of them?" said the dying man.
"Who will take care of them when we are gone?"

Then he thought of his brother, the children's uncle, and sent for him.

"Be good to them, dear brother," said he; "for you are the only friend they have now. Take care of our dear little son and daughter."

THE BABES IN THE WOOD

And the uncle promised that he would be good to them. When their parents were dead, he took the little boy and girl away to live with him; and for a while he seemed to love them, and to do all he could to make them happy. But he was really not a good man at all, and was always thinking of the riches that had been left to the children by their father; for he could not forget that those riches would be his if anything happened to the little boy and girl. And at last, when the poor children had not yet been with him a year and a day, he hired two men who were as wicked as himself to take them away to a dark wood and there kill them.

The pretty babes went gladly enough when the men offered to take them for a ride; and so sweetly did they talk to them that the robbers began to feel sorry they had promised to kill any beings so young and gentle. Indeed, one man declared that he would not kill the children after all. But the other man was determined to do this cruel deed, that he might get the large sum of money which the uncle had promised him. So the two quarrelled, and at last came to blows.

Think how frightened the two pretty children were when they saw the fight! They knew only love and gentleness, and did not understand what all this meant. They were still more afraid when one of the robbers lay dead on the ground—not knowing that he had wished to kill them; and what with hunger and fear they began to weep.

THE BABES IN THE WOOD

The other robber tried to comfort them, and at last he mounted his horse and said: "I will go and get bread for you, so do not cry. Wait here till I come back." And he rode away. But, although he spared their lives, he did not mean to return.

"He will come back soon," said the little ones to each other; and they linked hands and wandered up and down, waiting for him. They watched too, till their eyes were tired, and listened to hear his horse's feet; but he did not return.

At last, when they had wandered about till they were



The two quarrelled, and came to blows

THE BABES IN THE WOOD

tired, the tiny children lay down in each other's arms, and died.

And the birds and beasts came from their homes in the wood to look at them.

"Their hair is made of the sun," said the little rabbits.

"And how soundly they sleep!"

But Robin Redbreast, who loves little children, looked longest of all. "Let us cover them over with our prettiest leaves," said he, "so that nothing may come near to hurt them. We must never play our loudest games here, lest they should awake."

So he called to his friends and companions, and they came flying, one by one.

And each bird brought a leaf, which it laid upon the babes in the wood with gentle, loving touch; and back and forward they flew, till the children were quite covered with beautiful leaves. That was the only grave those children had.

This is the end of the story, little ones, but you must know that the robber who had left the children to die in the wood lost his own life soon after, having committed another cruel crime; and before he died he confessed this story.

As for the wicked uncle, he died in prison, and in great poverty; and I do not think we need be surprised, for people who have wicked thoughts and do wicked deeds do not live happily, nor do they die gently.







ONCE upon a time, in a far country, there lived a king and a queen who had an only child.

They were so happy when their beautiful baby girl was born that they agreed to have a grand banquet after the christening, and to invite all their friends and relations to rejoice with them.

The chief guests invited to the feast were twelve wise women, who were fairies. The King and Queen asked these fairies to be godmothers to their daughter, in the hope that they would be kind to the little princess, and give her good gifts. To entertain them fitly, the King unlocked the store-cupboard where he kept his treasures—his money, his gold cups and plates, and the best kinds of apples and honey—and took from a shelf twelve golden plates, set with precious stones—one for each of the fairy godmothers to eat from.

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

Now, there were really thirteen wise women who were fairies in the kingdom; but, as there were only twelve golden plates set with precious stones, the Queen sent no invitation to the thirteenth, who was very old, and who had not been seen outside the tower in which she lived for so many years that no one was sure whether she was alive or dead. The twelve wise women came, and when the feast was over began to give their wonderful fairy gifts to the baby princess.

The first godmother said that she should be as beautiful as the sunrise; the second, that she should be as wise as the years that had gone; the third, that she should be as good as gold; the fourth, that she should be as happy as the day is long; the fifth, that she should be as loving as the angels; the sixth, that she should be as merry-hearted as a lark in the sunshine; the seventh, that she should be as free and strong as the rippling waves; the eighth, that she should be as gentle as the breezes of summer; the ninth, that she should be as graceful as a bird on the wing; the tenth, that she should sing as sweetly as a nightingale; and the eleventh, that she should dance as lightly as a flower in the wind.

The eleventh godmother had just made her gift, when there came into the palace the old fairy who had not been seen for so many years. She was very angry indeed because she had not been invited to the christening feast, and she went straight up to the baby princess, and, stretching out her long, bony forefinger, said:

"The maiden, when she is in her fifteenth year, shall





THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

prick her finger with a spindle, and shall fall down dead!"

This terrible doom brought grief and fear to the whole company. The Queen screamed, the baby cried, and the troubled King knew not what to do; while all the guests trembled. Then the twelfth fairy, who had not yet made her gift, stepped forward.

"I cannot take away that fate," said she, "but I can make it less terrible. The Princess will surely prick her finger with a spindle when she is in her fifteenth year, but she will not die, but will fall into a deep sleep for a hundred years, at the end of which time a king's son shall awaken her. And, when she falls asleep, the whole company at the palace shall sleep also."

Thereafter the troubled King did all he could to save his daughter from the evil fortune foretold by the spiteful fairy. He caused proclamations to be written, ordering every spindle in the kingdom to be destroyed, and forbidding all persons to spin with distaff and spindle, or even to keep them in their houses, under pain of death, until the Princess was fifteen years old. He sent heralds to read these proclamations, in a loud voice, at every street corner in every town and village throughout the kingdom; and commanded that a large bonfire should be kindled in the courtyard of the palace, where he himself watched to see that every woman, young or old, brought her spindle and gave it up to be burned.

As the Princess grew up, it was easy to see that she had



"Let me see if I can work it"

received good gifts from her fairy godmothers; and she was so beautiful, and wise, and good, and gracious, and kind, that all who saw her loved her, and declared that she was the most wonderful princess in the whole world. Her teachers thought it a joy to teach her, her servants ran gladly to wait on her, and her courtiers tried every day to think of fresh things to say or do, to give her pleasure. The people in the streets crowded to see her as she passed, and went away the happier for a sight of her. And her parents said she was a treasure far greater than their whole kingdom and all their riches.

One day, when the Princess was nearly fifteen years

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

old, the King and Queen went out, leaving her alone. To amuse herself while they were away, she wandered through all the rooms and passages of the great palace, in some parts of which she had never yet been.

In her wanderings she came to an old tower, in which there was a winding staircase, and at the top of the stairs a narrow door. The Princess opened this door and entered a little room, where there was seated a very old woman, busily spinning with distaff and spindle. Now, either this old woman had not heard the King's order for the burning of all spindles, or she was the wicked fairy, who had disguised herself as an old spinner so that she might be sure the Princess would receive her evil gift.

The Princess was surprised to see her and her spinning-wheel. "Well, Granny," she said, "what are you doing here, and what is this strange thing that goes round so fast? Let me see if I can work it," and she took the spindle in her hand. But scarcely had she touched it when she pricked her finger with it; and the next moment she sank upon the floor in a deep sleep.

Then the old woman cried for help, and people came running in alarm to find out what had befallen their Princess. They rubbed her hands, they shouted in her ears, they bathed her forehead with Hungary water, and did all they could think of to rouse her, but in vain; the Princess slept peacefully through all the disturbance.

Then the people knew that she had fallen into the sleep which the twelfth fairy had foretold, and that she would not

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

waken again for a hundred years. So they carried her to her own room, and laid her upon the bed; and as soon as this was done the King and Queen, the whole Court, and everybody in and about the palace suddenly fell into a deep

sleep too.

The King and the Queen slept upon the throne, and the ladies and gentlemen of the Court, some sitting and some standing, slept around them. The guards slept at their posts; the servants fell asleep, quite suddenly, over their work; the cook, who was just about to box the scullion's ears, went to sleep with one arm raised; and the scullion slept with his mouth open, ready to scream. The grooms slept in the courtyard; the horses slept in the stables; the dogs slept in the kennels, or in the palace with their masters; the pigeons slept upon the roof, with their heads tucked under their wings; the flies slept upon the walls; the King's parrot slept upon the back of the throne; and the Queen's cat slept upon the floor. Even the fire upon the hearth left off flaming and crackling and became still, and the spits ceased from turning, while the roasting meats left off hissing and fizzling. Everybody and everything about the palace slept.

And now, all around it, a hedge began to grow. Prickly thorn bushes, with brambles twisted and twined among them, formed this hedge, and it grew so tall and so thick that very soon nothing could be seen of the palace from outside but the vane upon the top of the highest tower.

The story of the beautiful princess who slept within the



The King and the Queen slept upon the throne

thorn-guarded palace, until a king's son should come to awaken her, was told throughout the land; and many brave princes tried to force their way through the prickly hedge to find her. But neither man nor beast could break a way through that hedge, for it was a fairy hedge. Its boughs could not be forced apart, and they seized and held fast all who touched them; and those who were caught, after striving and struggling for a long time, fell and died.

When a hundred years had come and gone, however, the son of a king then reigning came through the land. He saw the tall vane above the high hedge, and asked an old man to what castle it belonged, and how he might reach it. Then the old man, who had heard the story from his grandfather, told him of the beautiful princess who lay sleeping in the palace within the thorn hedge until a king's son should awaken her. "But," said he, "you cannot reach her. Many kings' sons have tried, and all have died in the hedge of thorns."

But the Prince was not afraid. He went boldly up to the immense hedge with his sword drawn, and, because it was now time for the wicked fairy's spell to be broken, the thorns and brambles turned to tall, beautiful flowers as he drew near, and the flowers parted to let him pass through, closing behind him, as a hedge of thorns once more, to keep others from following.

Wondering greatly, the Prince passed on until he reached the courtyard of the palace. Here the grooms lay sleeping; and upon the roof of the palace the pigeons slept, with

their heads tucked under their wings.

The Prince gazed a-round him in awe and astonishment; then, fearing to make a sound in the great stillness and silence, he crept onward on tiptoe, past the stables and kennels where the horses and dogs were sleeping, and into the palace, where, in the entrance, stood the sleeping guards.

Inside the great hall of the palace there was no sound but that made by his footsteps. The King and Queen, the courtiers and servants, still slept.

Quickly the Prince passed them all and mounted the stairs, his heart full of one



He crept onward on tiptoe

great desire—to find the beautiful princess. At length he entered the room where she lay sleeping; and, when he saw her, he stood for a while as still and silent as the sleepers themselves, for she was so beautiful that he could do nothing but gaze at her.

At last he stooped and kissed her; and then the spell of the wicked fairy was broken.

The Princess awoke, and, smiling upon the Prince, said:

"Is it you, my prince? I have waited long for you."

And the Prince, delighted even more by her kindness and graciousness than by her beauty, told her that he loved her better than anyone in the world.

Then the Princess arose, the Prince took her by the hand, and they went together down the staircase and into

the great hall.

And now the whole company awoke, and looked with wonder around them. The King sprang to his feet with a cry of welcome; the Queen laughed for joy; the courtiers tried to remember what they were just going to do; and the servants hurriedly began to work, each one thinking he had been caught napping. The cook boxed the scullion's ears, and the scullion screamed, and dropped a bowl of soup; the fire began to flame and crackle; the spits began to turn, and the roasting meats to hiss and fizzle. The dogs barked; the cat stretched herself; the parrot screamed; and the flies crawled along the walls. The guards stood to attention, blinking solemnly; the horses neighed, and the grooms ran to feed them; and the pigeons flew down from the roof and pecked up some corn.

Everywhere were life, and stir, and bustle. At the same moment, the whole thorn hedge changed again into beautiful flowers; so the news quickly spread through the land that the beautiful princess had at last been awakened.



The Princess awoke

Then there was great rejoicing in the palace.

All had been silent for so long that everybody had a vast deal to say to everybody else. In the midst of the talking, and laughing, and handshaking, the chief lady-in-waiting announced that supper was ready, and the Prince led the Princess into the great hall of looking-glasses, followed by the King and Queen and the rest of the company, who by this time were all dreadfully hungry.

The supper, which was a very rich feast, was served by the officers of the Court, while the Court musicians played the good old tunes of a hundred years ago.

The Prince and Princess of course sat together, and, as

they ate the splendid dishes that were placed before them, the Princess told the Prince what had happened just before she fell asleep.

Then he told her all that had taken place since; and as some of the courtiers who were near them heard what he said, and passed on the news to their neighbours, soon everyone was talking about, and wondering at, the great changes that had taken place in the world.

After supper the Prince and Princess were married in the royal chapel, by the Lord Almoner; and they lived happily ever after.



Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves

ONCE upon a time there were two brothers, named Ali Baba and Cassim, who lived in a certain town of Persia. These two brothers were not alike in any way, for Cassim was rich and haughty, while Ali Baba was a very poor and humble woodcutter.

One day Ali Baba took his three asses, and went into a forest as usual to cut wood. He had just finished loading his asses when he saw a number of horsemen galloping towards him; and, feeling sure that they were robbers, he climbed up into a tree near a steep rock.

As the horsemen drew near, Ali Baba counted forty of them; and, from the great bags of plunder that they carried, he knew they were indeed robbers. To his alarm, they stopped beneath his tree, and their leader then went forward to the rock, and called out, "Open, Sesame!"

Instantly a door opened in the rock; the robbers, with their bags, marched through, and the door shut.

Presently all the thieves trooped out again, with empty bags this time, and mounted their horses. When the last had come out, the captain said, "Shut, Sesame!" and the rock-door closed again. The robbers then rode off.

After waiting till they were out of sight, Ali Baba came down from his tree. And, being curious to know what lay on the other side of the magic door, he went up to the rock and called out, "Open, Sesame!" Instantly the door flew open, and as he entered it shut again.

Ali Baba found himself in a large, well-lighted cave,

full of wonderful treasures—silks, and rich cloths, and great

heaps of gold, silver, and jewels.

He quickly gathered together as many bags of gold as he thought his asses could carry; and, having opened the door by means of the magic word, he loaded the animals with them and set off home.

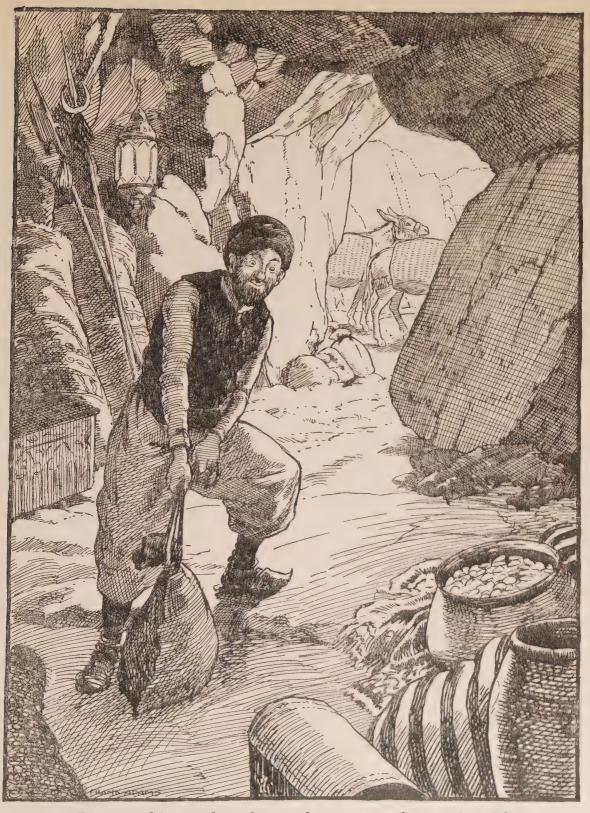
When he got to his poor hut, he emptied the bags of their precious gold; and he and his wife rejoiced together, knowing that they were now rich for life.

Greedy Cassim soon got to know of his brother's treasure, and, being very jealous, he went to Ali Baba and forced him to say how he had come by so much gold.

Having learnt where the robbers' cave was, Cassim made up his mind to go there himself for treasure, not being content with the riches he already had. So next day he took ten mules into the forest, and, having found the rock of which Ali Baba had told him, he stood before it and said, "Open, Sesame!" At once the door flew open; and as Cassim entered the cave it shut of its own accord.

Quickly he gathered together a great many bags of gold and jewels; but, when he was ready to come out, he found that he had forgotten the magic word that would open the door. He called out every name he could think of, but still the door remained shut.

Soon the robbers returned to the cave; and, although Cassim tried to hide behind the bags of gold, they found him out, and killed him. Then they cut his body into four pieces, and hung them up on either side of the cave door, to



He quickly gathered together many bags of gold

frighten anyone else who should venture in; and, having emptied their bags, they rode away once more.

Now, when Cassim did not return in the evening, his wife grew uneasy, and went to tell her fears to Ali Baba. He promised to look for her husband next day, and early in the morning went off to the robbers' cave. The first sight that met his eyes on entering the cave was his brother's quartered body. Full of horror, he took the quarters down, and placed them on one of his asses; then, loading the two others with gold, he returned home.

He gave the dead body into the charge of a beautiful and clever slave-girl of Cassim's, called Morgiana; and between them they arranged a plan to prevent anyone from knowing how Cassim had met his death.

Morgiana went to an old cobbler named Baba Mustapha, who, for some pieces of gold, allowed himself to be blindfolded by her, and led to Cassim's house. When they got there, Morgiana took the bandage off, and bade the old cobbler sew up the four quarters of Cassim's dead body; and, when that was done, she blindfolded him again, and led him back to his shop.

It was then given out that Cassim had died suddenly; and his body was buried in the usual manner, without anyone learning the secret of his death.

A short time after, Cassim's wife was married to Ali Baba, who, with his own family and belongings, went to live in his brother's house. As such marriages were common in his country, no one was surprised.

In the meantime, when the robbers came back to their cave and found Cassim's body gone, they knew that the secret of their hiding-place was known to someone else; and, fearing that they were in danger of being captured, they made up their minds to find out all they could about the man they had killed and his friends.

So one of their number was disguised, and sent into the town early one morning to learn the news of the place; and the first person he spoke to hap-



Mustapha being blindfolded

pened to be old Mustapha. It was not long before the cobbler told him of the strange piece of work he had done lately; and the robber, feeling sure that the body Mustapha spoke of must be the one from the cave, promised him gold if he would show him the house he had been taken to, saying that, if he were blindfolded again, he might remember the turnings.

Mustapha agreed, and, after being blindfolded, led the

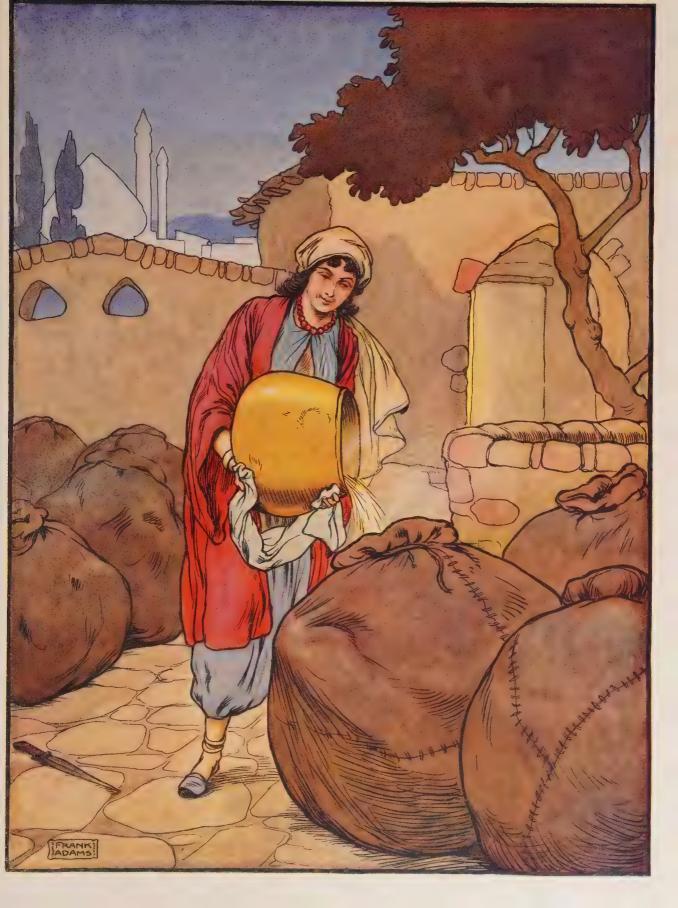
way to Ali Baba's house. Then the robber, having put a chalk-mark on the door, so that he might know it again, gave the old man his gold, and returned to the cave.

It was not long before Morgiana came out of the house, and saw the chalk-mark on the door. Thinking it might mean danger to her master, she marked all the other doors in the street with chalk in the same way. So, when the robbers came into the street next day, meaning to attack their enemy, they could not tell which was the right house, and were obliged to return to their cave.

But they soon sent another of their band to find out the house for them; and this man, after going through the same business with the old cobbler, marked the door with red chalk. Morgiana, however, espied this mark also, and marked all the other doors in the same manner. So, when the robbers came a second time, they were no better off than they had been before.

At last the robber captain said he would see what he could do himself; and, after getting old Mustapha to lead him to the house, he did not mark the door, but noted it very carefully, so that he could not fail to know it again. He then got a number of large leather oil-jars, put a robber in each, and slung them over mules; and, having disguised himself as a merchant, he led them into the town late one evening. He went straight to Ali Baba's house, and was granted leave to pass the night there.

Now, Morgiana sat up 'ate that night to do some work for her master; and, having run short of oil for her lamp,





she thought she would take a little from the oil-merchant's jars in the yard.

But she was filled with surprise when, on going up to one of the jars, she heard a voice whisper: "Is it time?" She was brave enough not to cry out, but to whisper in answer: "Not yet; but presently!" and, on hearing the same whisper from the other jars, to give the same answer.

She now knew that her master was in great danger,

and quickly thought out a clever plan to save him. She found that one jar was really full of oil; so, filling her largest kettle from this, she put it on the fire to boil. When it was ready, she took the kettle into the yard, and poured enough of the boiling oil into each of the jars to kill instantly the man inside.

Presently she saw the robber captain creep down into the yard to call his men. But when he looked into the jars, and saw that the men were dead, he knew that his plot had been found out, and quickly made his escape.



He knew that his plot had been found out

Next day Morgiana told her master of all that had happened; and Ali Baba was so grateful that he said she should be a slave no longer. But Morgiana loved her master so well that she still stayed in his house.

It was not long before the robber captain thought out another plan for getting rid of his enemy. He set up as a merchant in the town, and soon made friends with Ali Baba's son, who was also a merchant. And he showered so many favours upon the young man that at last he was invited to Ali Baba's house.

Ali Baba prepared a grand feast, and, when it was over, Morgiana came in to dance before them.

Now, Morgiana at once recognized the robber captain, in spite of his disguise; and, seeing that he had a dagger hidden inside his robe, she knew he meant to kill Ali Baba. But she quickly thought out a way to spoil his wicked plans once more.

In her last dance she held a scimitar high over her head, and went through all kinds of graceful movements with it; and, just as the false guest was admiring her most, she suddenly rushed forward and plunged the weapon into his heart.

She then pointed out the robber captain beneath his disguise; and Ali Baba was so grateful to her for having saved his life a second time that he said she should be married to his son as a reward.

So Morgiana and the young merchant were married a few days later. And, as Ali Baba now had the secret of the robbers' cave to himself, he and his family were rich and happy to the end of their days.







ONCE upon a time three bears lived in a cottage near a wood.

And in a house on the other side of the wood a little girl lived with her parents.

One of the bears was a GREAT BIG BEAR.

One was a MIDDLE-SIZED BEAR.

And one was a TINY WEE BEAR.

The little girl had long golden hair, so she was called Goldilocks.

One day the three bears went for a walk in the wood, while their breakfast porridge was cooling; and while they were gone, Goldilocks, who was also in the wood, came to their cottage. Noticing that the door was open, she peeped in; and there she saw a table upon which were three bowls of porridge.

One of the bowls was a great big bowl.

One was a middle-sized bowl.

And one was a tiny wee bowl.

Set round the table were three chairs.

One of the chairs was a great big chair.

One was a middle-sized chair.

And one was a tiny wee chair.

Goldilocks looked this way and that way, but she saw no one. So she went into the cottage. And, being hungry, she took up a great big spoon, and helped herself to some porridge from the great big bowl. But she quickly dropped the spoon back into the bowl, for the porridge was too hot, and had burned her tongue.

Then she took up a middle-sized spoon, and helped herself to some porridge from the middle-sized bowl.

But she quickly dropped the spoon back into that bowl also, for the porridge was too cold, and she did not like it.

And last, she took up a tiny wee spoon, and helped herself to some porridge from the tiny wee bowl. Now, the porridge in the tiny wee bowl was just right, neither too hot nor too cold. So very soon Goldilocks had eaten it all up.

Then, being tired, she sat down in the great big chair. But she quickly jumped up again, for the great big cushion in it was too hard.

After that she sat down in the middle-sized chair. But again she quickly jumped up, for the middle-sized cushion in it was too soft.

And last, she sat down in the tiny wee chair. And the tiny wee cushion in the tiny wee chair was just right,

neither too hard nor too soft. So Goldilocks went on sitting upon it till the bottom of the chair fell out, and the cushion with it, and she found herself sitting upon the floor.

Then she looked this way and that way, and in one corner of the cottage she noticed some steep stairs.

"I will go up those stairs," said she.

So she went up the steep stairs, and then into a little bedroom.

And there she saw three beds.



She found herself sitting upon the floor

One of the beds was a great big bed.

One was a middle-sized bed.

And one was a tiny wee bed.

Being sleepy, Goldilocks lay down upon the great big bed. But she quickly got up again, for the head of the great big bed was too high.

Then she lay down upon the middle-sized bed; but again she quickly got up, for the foot of the middle-sized bed was too low.

And last, she lay down upon the tiny wee bed. Now, the tiny wee bed was just right, neither too high at the head nor too low at the foot. So very soon Goldilocks was fast asleep upon it.

When she had fallen asleep, the three bears came

home from their walk in the wood.

First, the Great Big Bear espied his great big spoon standing in the porridge in his great big bowl.

"SOMEONE HAS BEEN TASTING MY PORRIDGE,"

roared he.

Then the Middle-sized Bear espied her middle-sized spoon standing in the porridge in her middle-sized bowl.

"SOMEONE HAS BEEN TASTING MY PORRIDGE," growled she.

And last, the Tiny Wee Bear espied his tiny wee spoon standing in his empty, tiny wee bowl.

"SOMEONE HAS BEEN TASTING MY PORRIDGE," squeaked he, "AND HAS EATEN IT ALL UP."

By this time the Great Big Bear had noticed that the great big cushion that lay in his great big chair was rumpled.

"SOMEONE HAS BEEN SITTING IN MY CHAIR,"

roared he.

Then the Middle-sized Bear noticed that the middle-sized cushion that lay in her middle-sized chair was rumpled.

"SOMEONE HAS BEEN SITTING IN MY CHAIR," growled she.



"Someone has been tasting my porridge," roared he

And last, the Tiny Wee Bear noticed that the tiny wee cushion of his tiny wee chair lay upon the floor.

"SOMEONE HAS BEEN SITTING IN MY CHAIR," squeaked he, and has sat the bottom out."

The three bears looked this way and that way, but saw no one.

So they went up the steep stairs in the corner, and then into the bedrooom.

And there the Great Big Bear immediately noticed that the bedclothes which covered his great big bed were crumpled.

"SOMEONE HAS BEEN LYING ON MY BED," roared he.

Then the Middle-sized Bear saw that the bedclothes on her middle-sized bed were crumpled.

"SOMEONE HAS BEEN LYING ON MY BED," growled she.

And last, the Tiny Wee Bear saw that the bedclothes on his tiny wee bed were lying in an odd, crumpled heap.

"SOMEONE HAS BEEN LYING ON MY BED," squeaked he, "AND HERE SHE IS!"

Goldilocks was very much frightened to see the three bears.

For a minute she stared at them, while they stared back at her.

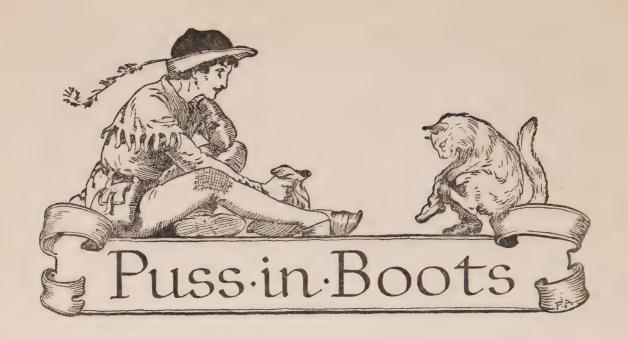
Then, jumping from the tiny wee bed, the little girl darted down the stairs, with her golden hair flying around her head.

And the three bears were so dazzled by the brightness of her hair that they stumbled as they ran after her down the stairs.

When they reached the kitchen, Goldilocks had run out of the cottage door; and, when they reached the door, she was a long way off. And though they ran and ran they did not catch her, for she had run right through the wood, and was safe at home with her parents.

So the three bears went back to their cottage.





THERE was once a miller who owned a mill, an ass, and a cat.

When he came to die, he gave these possessions to his three sons—to the eldest the mill, to the second the ass, and to the youngest the cat.

But the youngest son was not at all content with his share. "My brothers can work together and make a good living," said he, "for one can grind corn, and the other can carry it in sacks upon the ass, to sell it. But I, with my cat, can do nothing but clear the mill of mice and rats, and I shall never make a fortune at that."

The cat heard his master's complaint, and, rubbing against his legs, said:

"Do not be down-hearted, Master. Buy me a pair of boots and a bag, and I will soon show you that with me

you have a better lot than your brothers have with the mill and the ass."

So the young man spent his last pound in buying a handsome pair of boots and a bag for the cat.

Puss drew on the boots, threw the bag over his shoulder, and went off to a rabbit-warren. There, having put some bran and sow-thistles into the bag, he laid it on the ground with the mouth open, and stretched himself out near by as if he were dead, with the strings of the bag between his paws.

Soon a young rabbit crept into the bag to eat the bran and the sow-thistles; and in a moment the cat pulled the strings, and caught and killed it.

Much pleased with his good luck, Puss now went to the palace and asked to see the King.

When he was brought before the throne, he bowed low and said:

"Sire, my master, the Marquis of Carabas, sends you this rabbit as a present."

And the King replied: "Tell your master I thank him for his gift."

The next day the cat hid himself in a cornfield and caught two partridges, which he also presented to the King as from the Marquis of Carabas; and after this, for many weeks, he daily took presents of game to the palace, which were graciously accepted by His Majesty.

Then one day, when he heard that the King, with the beautiful princess who was his only child, was to drive by the riverside, Puss went to his master and said:

"Master, if you will do as I bid you, your fortune is made. Go and bathe in the river at the spot I will show you, and leave the rest to me."

The young man did as the cat advised him, and, as soon as he was in the water, Puss hid his shabby clothes under a large stone.

Not long afterwards the King's coach drew near, and then the cat began to run up and down the bank, crying:

"Help! help! My master, the Marquis of Carabas, is drowning!"

On hearing his cries, the King put his head out of the coach window, and, recognizing the cat, asked him why he was troubled.

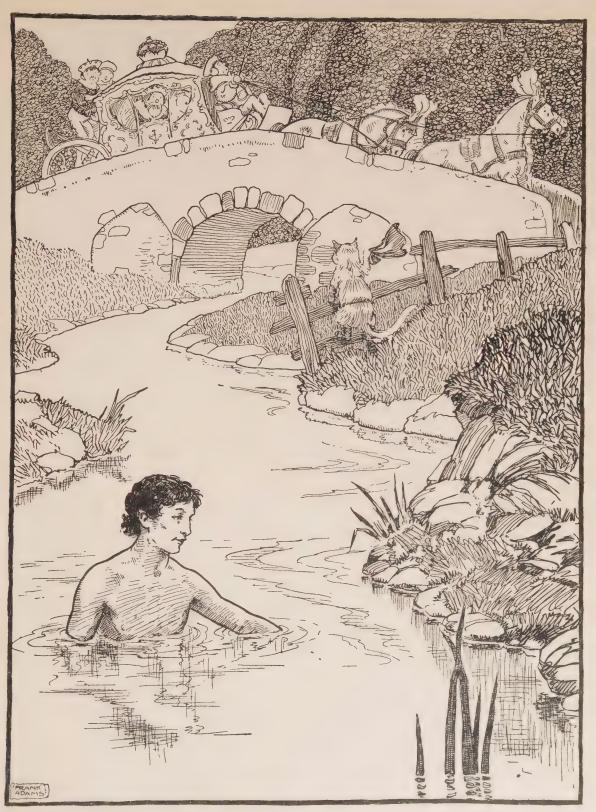
"Sire," replied the cat, "while my noble master, the Marquis, has been bathing, some thieves have stolen his clothes, and, for want of them, he has already stayed so long in the water that I fear he will take cramp and be drowned."

Then the King ordered some of his officers to go to the help of the Marquis, while others were sent home to fetch a handsome suit of clothes for him.

Very soon the youth was clothed in fine raiment, and brought to the door of the coach to pay his respects to the King and the Princess.

And, being a handsome and well-mannered youth, he now had so courtly an air that the Princess fell in love with him at once, and the King invited him into the coach beside them.

The cat, delighted at the success of his plans, ran on in



"Help! help! My master is drowning!"

front; and, seeing some men at work in the fields, said to them:

"My good fellows, if you do not tell the King, who is now coming this way, that these fields belong to the Marquis of Carabas, you will be chopped as small as mincemeat."

The labourers were much alarmed, and when the King, in passing, asked them to whom the fields belonged, they replied promptly: "To my lord the Marquis of Carabas."

"You have a fine estate, sir," said the King to the

miller's son.

And the young man only bowed and blushed, for he was much too astonished to reply.

Meanwhile the cat, still going on as before, ordered all whom he saw—reapers, haymakers and woodcutters—to tell the King that the land upon which they were working belonged to the Marquis of Carabas; and all obeyed him, for they feared that they would be chopped up.

Thus the King became always more impressed by the riches of his new acquaintance, while the miller's son grew

more bewildered.

At last the cat reached a stately castle, where lived an ogre who owned all the country round, and who was a magician.

Puss asked permission to pay his respects to the great man, and was taken into his presence.

"I have been told that you are wondrously clever, and can change yourself into any shape you will," said he. "Is this true?"



"You will be chopped as small as mincemeat"

"Indeed it is," said the ogre, changing himself promptly into a lion, which roared at the cat.

Puss, much alarmed, sprang out of the window and scrambled up a water-pipe—a most difficult thing to do in his boots.

And not till the ogre had returned to his own shape did he venture to come down again.

"You are indeed wonderfully clever," said he; "but naturally this marvellous power will only enable you to take the forms of great and strong creatures like yourself; you will not be able to take the shape of a small creature, such as a mouse."

"Indeed I am able," replied the ogre.

And promptly he changed into a mouse, which ran across the floor.

Puss no sooner saw the mouse than he sprang upon it; and he ate it up before it had time to turn into an ogre again.

Then he hastened to the door of the castle, for he heard the clatter of the King's horses sounding from the courtyard.

"Welcome, Your Majesty, to the castle of the Marquis of Carabas!" said he.

"And is this fine castle yours also, my lord?" asked the King. "Certainly let us enter."

So the miller's son gave his arm to the Princess, and all entered the castle, where a fine banquet was prepared by the servants of the ogre.

The King was greatly pleased with the feast, the splendid castle, and the modest manner of the handsome young marquis.

"My lord," said he, "I offer you the honour of becoming my son-in-law."

Very gladly the young man accepted this honour, and he and the Princess were married that very day.

The cat became a great lord, and never again ran after rats and mice, except for his own amusement.



NCE upon a time there were three little pigs whose mother was too poor to give them all as much food as they wanted. So, when they were big enough to take care of themselves, she turned them out of the home-sty to find their own living.

As the first little pig trudged through the world, seeking his fortune, he met a man carrying a truss of straw. "If you please, sir," said he, "will you give me that straw to build a house with?"

And, because of his good manners, the man gave him the truss of straw, and the little pig built a house with it, and sat down inside.

By and by a wolf came along, and, smelling the pig, said: "Little Pig, Little Pig, let me come in."



So he huffed, and he puffed, till he blew the house in

But the pig knew the wolf's voice, so he replied: "No, no, by the hair on my chinny-chin-chin!"

"Then," said the wolf, "I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house in." So he huffed, and he puffed, till he blew the house of straw in; and then he ate up the little pig.

As the second little pig trudged through the world, seeking his fortune, he met a man carrying a bundle of furze.

"If you please, sir," said he, "will you give me that bundle of furze to build a house with?"

And, because he was polite, the man gave him the bundle of furze, and the little pig built a house, and sat down inside it.

By and by the wolf came along, and saw the house, and smelt the pig. Then he knocked at the door, and said: "Little Pig, Little Pig, let me come in."

But the pig peeped through the keyhole and saw the wolf's ears, so he replied: "No, no, by the hair on my chinny-chin-chin!"

"Then," said the wolf, "I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house in." So he huffed and he puffed, and he huffed and he puffed, till at last he blew the house of furze in; and then he ate up the little pig.

As the third little pig trudged through the world, seeking his fortune, he met a man carrying a load of bricks.

"If you please, sir," said he, "will you give me those bricks to build a house with?"

And, because he was well-behaved, the man gave him the load of bricks, and the little pig built a house, and sat down inside it.

By and by the wolf came along, and saw the house, and smelt the pig. Then he knocked at the door, and said:

"Little Pig, Little Pig, let me come in."

But the pig peeped through the crack under the door, and saw the wolf's paws, so he replied, as his brothers had done: "No, no, by the hair on my chinny-chin-chin!"

"Then," said the wolf, "I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house in." So he huffed and he puffed, and he huffed and he puffed, and he huffed and he puffed, till he was out of breath; but he could not blow the house of bricks in. And, when he saw that after all his huffing

and puffing the house stood firm, he said: "Little Pig, Little Pig, I can tell you where there are some nice turnips."

"Where?" asked the little pig, still safe inside.

"In the field at the top of the lane," replied the cunning wolf, "and, if you will be ready at six o'clock to-morrow morning, we will get some for dinner."

"Yes, I will be ready," said the little pig.

Next day, the little pig got up at five o'clock, and ran quickly to the field at the top of the lane and found some turnips, which he took home for dinner.

At six o'clock the wolf knocked at the door, and said: "Little Pig, I am waiting for you."

"Pray don't wait any longer," replied the little pig, "for I have been to the field and come back, and I have a big dish of nice turnips for dinner."

When the wolf heard this he felt very angry, but he made his voice smooth, and said: "Little Pig, Little Pig, I know where there are some nice apples."

"Where?" asked the little pig, without opening the door.

"On a tree at the bottom of the lane," replied the wolf, "and, if you will be ready at five o'clock to-morrow morning, I will take you there, and we will get some for dinner."

"Yes, I will be ready," said the little pig.

Next day the little pig got up at four o'clock, and hurried to the bottom of the lane and climbed the appletree. He had picked a lot of nice apples, and was just going to jump down and run home, when he saw

the wolf coming. So he stayed where he was, feeling very frightened. The wolf came to the foot of the tree. and grinned till he showed all his sharp teeth.

"Little Pig," said he, "why did you not wait for me?"

"I was so hungry that I could not wait," replied the little pig. "Let me throw you down one of the apples, that you may taste it, and see how nice they are." And he threw an apple so far that, while the wolf was gone to pick it up, he had time to jump down from "Little Pig, why did you not wait for me?" the tree and run away home.



Next day the wolf came again to the pig's house, and knocked at the door, and said: "Little Pig, Little Pig, there is to be a fair on the hill this afternoon. Will you go with me?"

"Yes," replied the little pig, "I will go. What time will you call for me?"

"At three o'clock," replied the wolf.

But, as usual, the little pig started before the wolf came, and visited the fair, where he bought a butter-churn. He was carrying it home, when he saw the wolf a long

way off, trotting up the hill. Then, as he was very frightened, and could think of nothing better to do, he hid himself in the churn. But, as he jumped in, the churn fell on its side, and began to roll over and over down the hill, with the pig inside.

The wolf, seeing a strange round thing coming towards him, was so much alarmed that he ran away home as fast as his legs would take him, without visiting the fair.

At the bottom of the hill the little pig got out of the churn, and went into his house; and, soon after he was safely inside, the wolf knocked at the door, and said: "Little Pig, I could not go to the fair, for a great round thing ran after me down the hill, and drove me home."

"Ha!" replied the little pig, with a chuckle, "that was my butter-churn, which I bought at the fair; and I was inside it."

Then the wolf was very angry, and declared that he would climb down the chimney of the house, and eat the little pig up; and he began to scramble on to the roof. But, while he did this, the little pig stirred the fire to a blaze, and hung a large pot full of water over it. And, when he heard a noise in the chimney, he lifted the lid of the pot, and the wolf tumbled into the water with a splash. Then the little pig boiled him, and ate him for supper. And after that he lived happily for the rest of his life in the house of bricks.

